Nuclear reactors of Pakistan

†2915. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a declaration has been made, recently, by Pakistan that nuclear reactors would be used for making ammunitions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the attention of the world has been drawn toward the crisis likely to take place due to this declaration by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (d) A US based non-governmental Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) in a recent report stated that Pakistan was making a second heavy water production reactor inside the Khushab nuclear complex which was capable of producing enough plutonium for 40 to 50 nuclear weapons a year. Pakistani Ambassador to Washington Mahmud Ali Durrani in an interview to "The Washington Times" on 4 August 2006 however stated that the ISIS report was grossly exaggerated. He also stated that "the plutonium may certainly be used for military purposes, but it is simply not the case that it will increase our capability X-fold." The ISIS report was subsequently disputed by the US National Security Council. According to a New York Times report of August 3,2006, US National Security Council Spokesman Frederick Jones said that "US Government experts believe that the reactor is expected to be substantially smaller and less capable that reported."

Government constantly monitors all developments that have a bearing on India's security environment and is committed to taking all necess'ary steps to safeguard the nation's security.

Visa to Nigerians

†2916. SHRIMATISUSHMASWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Nigerians granted visa for visting India during the last two years;

(b) number of persons out of above arrested for criminal activities; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.